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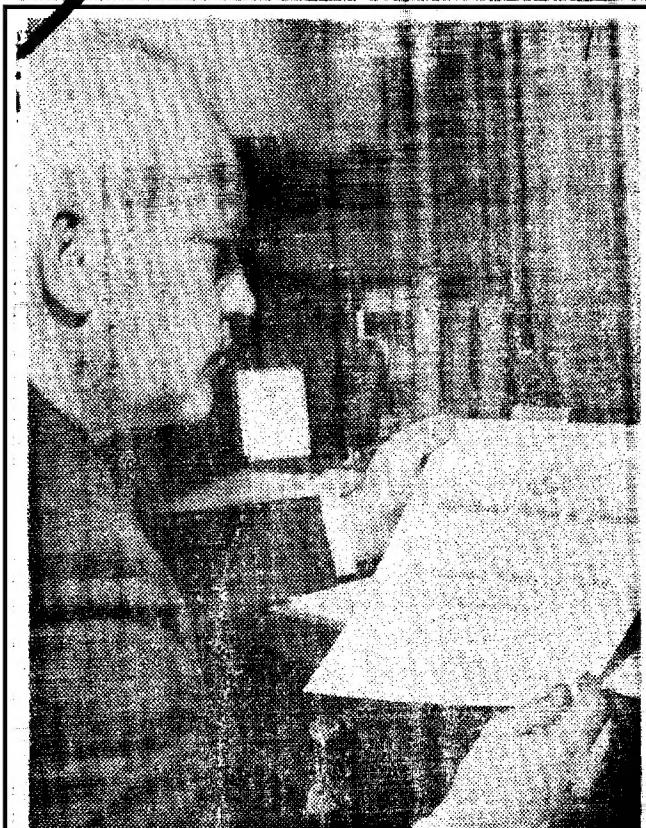
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PRESIDENTIAL PRAISE: Vice president James B. Donovan of the Board of Education reads the citation he received from President Kennedy praising his work in arranging the Powers-Abel exchange with Soviet Russia. Photo by Stanzola

Donovan Offers a Plan To Aid City's Youth

Negotiator of Soviet Spy Exchange Returns To His Duties With School Board

By SELWYN RAAB

World-Telegram Staff Writer

With his cloak and dagger episode now in the history books, James B. Donovan returns today to his less spectacular chores as vice president of the Board of Education.

Mr. Donovan, the silver-haired lawyer who secretly negotiated the Powers-Abel spy trade with the Soviet Union, now has another ticklish job ahead of him. He is going to use his negotiator's skills to try to convince the school board, city youth agencies and private institutions to unite in a "crash cultural and recreational program" for city youngsters.

The school board vice president will be meeting his eight colleagues for the first time in two months late this afternoon, when he attends an informal session at board headquarters.

Away Since January.

He has not seen or spoken with any other board member since he set out late last January for East Berlin to begin the talks that finally led to the exchange of U-2 Pilot Gary Powers for Col. Rudolf I. Abel, convicted Soviet spy.

Mr. Donovan's projected "crash" program would give all the city's youth a chance to benefit from New York's varied cultural and recreational facilities. He feels the schools alone can't do the job and it is up to other city agencies and private groups to provide the opportunities in after-school hours and on weekends.

Culture or Jungle?

"Tens of thousands of children in the city have no opportunity to see the beauty and advantages of living here," he said yesterday in an inter-

view. "If we don't do something about this soon, then eventually we are going to have a jungle instead of a thriving metropolis."

A co-ordinated public-private cultural and recreational program has never been attempted here before, Mr. Donovan said. He stressed that all aspects of the program would be voluntary and there should be no city or school board interference with private groups. "What I want the board to do is to give the initial impetus to get this project rolling," he said.

Cited by President.

Before returning to his Brooklyn home from a Florida

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vacation, Mr. Donovan and his wife stopped off at the Civilian Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters ~~near Washington~~. At an unpublicized ceremony, CIA director John A. McCone awarded Mr. Donovan the Distinguished Intelligence Medal of the CIA for his part in the spy swap.

The 45-year-old lawyer was cited for his "unique accomplishments" and "highest order of diplomatic skill." Mr. Donovan also got a congratulatory letter from President Kennedy praising his "skill and courage" in the negotiations.

In the outburst of publicity that greeted him after the spy exchange, Mr. Donovan noted that "no one seemed to know I was vice president of the board."

However, Mr. Donovan recalled, at least one Soviet official was impressed by his school board rank. This occurred after his first negotiating session with Ivan A. Shiskin, second secretary of the Soviet Embassy in East Berlin, when Mr. Donovan gave his Russian counterpart a personal card listing his school board office.

Mr. Donovan said the Soviet diplomat noticed his school board position and then said gravely: "This is very good work you are doing."